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HUNT
JEFF HARDY
MIAMI

The defense against Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt's libel suit against a right-wing tabloid read into evidence Monday a deposition from its star witness, a mystery woman who linked Hunt and the CIA to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Marita Lorenz, reputed former lover of Cuban President Fidel Castro, gave the deposition Jan. 11 in New York City because, she told defense lawyer Mark Lane, "I would like to get things over with." She said she had been in hiding in fear of her life ever since the Nov. 22, 1963 assassination of Kennedy.

Closing arguments were scheduled to begin Tuesday morning. Lane and Hunt's lawyer Kevin Dunne said they expected the jury to begin deliberations around noon.

Lorenz, who refused to give her address or place of employment, claimed she had worked for the FBI and CIA and has doing intelligence and anti-drug work for the New York City police department.

In the deposition she said she met Hunt, a former CIA agent, for the first time in 1960, in Miami. She described Hunt as a "paymaster" for the CIA. She also claimed she met Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of Kennedy, that year "while we were training in the Bay of Pigs for the Bay of Pigs. He wanted to be part of the organization."

Lorenz said in the deposition she was working for the CIA when she rode in a car Nov. 20, 1963 from Miami to Dallas with people who included Frank Sturgis, also a former CIA agent and a convicted Watergate burglar. She said Oswald was in a following car carrying weapons and she was told the nature of the trip was confidential.

When the group arrived in Dallas on Nov. 21, she said they met Hunt in a motel room and his CIA codename was "Edwardo." She said Hunt gave Sturgis an envelope with money inside.

"He gave it to 'Fiorini' (Sturgis' code name)," she said. "Frank pulled out the money and flipped it and said 'that is enough' then folded it and put it in his pocket."

After the exchange, she told them she wanted out of the operation. She said she went back to Miami to pick up her son and then flew to New York to her mother's house, where she learned that President Kennedy had been killed the day after the exchange between Hunt and Sturgis.

Lane asked: "Did Mr. Sturgis later tell you this operation dealt with Kennedy's death?"

"Yes," Lorenz answered.

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She said Sturgis also told her later that he was on the grassy knoll in Dallas at the time and near where Kennedy was shot.

Hunt later said he had never paid Sturgis for gun running operations at any time.

"No sir, I wasn't a paymaster of that sort."

He also denied meeting Lorenz in Miami in 1960 or in Dallas three years later.

"I never saw her on that date (Nov. 21, 1963) or on any other date," he said.

Lane, author of the best-seller "Rush to Judgment," which criticized the Warren Commission's assassination report, has been claiming that Hunt chose to sue the weekly tabloid The Spotlight because it did not have the resources to properly defend itself.

He has said many articles were written in more established publications that contained the same information Victor Marchetti wrote about in his Aug. 14, 1978 story in the tabloid, operated by the right-wing Liberty Lobby of Washington, D.C.

Marchetti's article said a 1966 CIA memo linked Hunt to the assassination of Kennedy. It also said he was disguised as one of three bums who were arrested in Dallas the day Kennedy died.

Hunt was awarded \$650,000 when the case first went to a jury, but that verdict was overturned on appeal and a new trial was ordered because a judge's instructions to the jury were flawed.